Suggestions on Draft Note on buy Indian Steel

5250. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have circulated a draft note on "Buy Indian Steel" to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Finance etc. for their comments;

(b) if so, whether any comments have been received from them;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the reaction of Government on such comments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) While the Department of Economic Affairs has not supported the proposed legislation the Department of Commerce has suggested to pend the proposal for the time being. The DGFT has suggested including other products in the draft legislation.

(d) The draft legislation is being reconsidered in consultation with stakeholders. However, it may be noted that the proposal was mooted at a time when the domestic industry had been passing through a severe crisis caused by low price and poor demand. The situation has shown improvement since January, 2002 with a general rise in the price of steel products, both domestically and internationally leading to considerable improvement in performance of the domestic steel industry during 2002-03.

Fall in Steel Prices

5251. SHRI JANAKDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that with the steep fall in prices of steel in domestic and International markets, a number of steel companies are facing crisis with huge inventory ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the measures initiated by Government to revive the sinking steel companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) There has been a significant fall in the prices of flat steel products, particularly Hot Rolled Coils, in the international market. This has resulted in downward revision in the domestic prices.

It is still early to assess any adverse impact on the off-take and inventory building. Indian steel producers are carefully reviewing the current international market situation. The Government in a liberalized set up does not interfere in the decisions at the plant level.

Identification of Talented Sports Persons

†5252. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to identify the talented sports persons at lower level and introduce new revolutionary schemes for development of their skill ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the said schemes are likely to be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA) : (a) to (c) The Sports Authority of India (SAI), implements a number of Schemes which operate to scout and nurture sports talent from all over the country, including the rural areas. These are, National Sports Talent Centre (NSTC). Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC), Special Area Games (SAG) and SAI Training Centres (STC). These schemes are basically meant for scouting and nurturing talent at lower age group.. Under these schemes the children in the age group of 8-14 years and 14-21 years are selected based on the scheme norms, and then scientifically trained . Moreover, the scheme of Centre of Excellence too, envisages induction of talent who show promising performance at the senior level.

The Government have approved a new Scheme of State Sports Academy, the main objective of which is to select the best available potential in sports between the age groups of 10-13 years as well as the top performers in State/ National competitions in the age group of 10-18 years and prepare and groom them over the years for winning medals for the country at the international level.

Statutory Youth Commission

5253. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up the Statutory Youth Commission at the Central level ;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.